

Message Text

SECRET

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 AID-20 BNDD-05 CIAE-00 INR-10

IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00

USIA-12 NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 DODE-00 AGR-20 HEW-08

L-03 IGA-02 RSR-01 /154 W
----- 028621

R 080927 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6844

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

S E C R E T RANGOON 1338

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR BM

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: BURMESE DEVELOPMENTS

REF: RANGOON 1174 NOTAL

1. I CALLED ON U PYI SOE JUNE 8 PRIMARILY FOR PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING MY REGULAR CONTACT WITH HIM ON NARCOTICS MATTERS AND TO PROVIDE HIM WITH OUR LATEST REPORTS ON NARCOTICS SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES IN BURMA. PYI SOE REMARKED THAT WHEN HE HAD TOLD COLONEL TIN OO (HEAD OF MIS) OF MY IMPENDING CALL THIS MORNING TIN OO HAD ASKED HIM TO " IMPRESS ON THE AMBASSADOR" THE GOOD JOB GUB HAS BEEN DOING. I ASSURED PYI SOE THAT HE DID NOT HAVE TO IMPRESS ME SINCE I WAS ALREADY MUCH IMPRESSED, ESPECIALLY BY THE CLEAN- UP OF REFINERIES AND SMUGGLING ROUTES IN THE TACHILEK AREA. I SAID THAT GUB' S RECENT ACTIONS AGAINST THE KHAKWEYEI (KKY) HAD GONE FAR BEYOND WHAT A YEAR AGO WOULD HAVE SEEMED POSSIBLE. I NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT REPORTS I HAD JUST GIVEN HIM INDICATED REFINERIES SET UP IN NORTH AND FURTHER LO HSING- HAN ACTIVITY.

2. REFERRING TO GUB' S DECISION TO ACCEPT UNFDAC ASSISTANCE
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(REFTEL) I ASKED WHETHERE THERE HAD BEEN ANY FOLLOW- UP YET.
PYI SOE REPLIED THAT GUB WAS DRAWING UP PLANS FOR TWO OR THREE
PROJECTS WHICH WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO UNDP IN RANGOON AND MARTENS
IN GENEVA. WHEN I ASKED IF THE PROJECTS WOULD INCLUDE
ASSISTANCE IN THE ENFORCEMENT AREA, PYI SOE REPLIED THAT THEY
MIGHT ALTHOUGH PRIMARY EMPHASIS WOULD BE ON CROP SUBSTITUTION,
ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, TREATMENT OF ADDICTS, ETC. HE POINTED OUT
THAT UNLIKE SITUATION IN OTHER COUNTRIES IN BURMA, BECAUSE OF
INSURGENCY IN THE OPIUM GROWING AREAS, ENFORCEMENT HAD TO BE
CARRIED OUT PRIMARILY BY THE ARMED FORCES RATHER THAN BY POLICE.

3. PYI SOE ALLUDED TO ONE OF THE MOST INTRACTABLE PROBLEMS
OF NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION IN BURMA WHEN HE SAID THAT POLICE
OFFICIALS DEALING WITH NARCOTICS MATTERS HAVE TO BE VERY
CAREFULLY SELECTED BECAUSE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING IS MONOPOLIZED
BY CHINESE WHO ARE MASTERS OF THE ART OF BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION.
(COMMENT: CHINESE BRIBING OF PETTY OFFICIALS IS A LONG -
ESTABLISHED PART OF THE PATTERN OF LIFE IN BURMA.)

4. PYI SOE ALLUDED TO OUR PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS ON POSIBLE US
PROVISION OF NARCOTICS EQUIPMENT AND SAID THAT " NOTES" HAD
BEEN SENT TO OTHER MINISTRIES CONCERNED TO GET THEIR REACTIONS,
WHICH WERE STILL BEING AWAITED.
MARTIN

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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